

Chrysanthemum plant named 'Kepa'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

'Kepa' is a product of a breeding and selection program for outdoor pot mums (garden mums) which had the objective of creating new chrysanthemum cultivars with a decorative type flower, a natural season flower date around September 8 - 13; blooming for a period of 5 weeks. The new plant of the present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant 'Kepa' is a seedling resulting from the open pollination among groups of chrysanthemum cultivars maintained under the control of the inventor for breeding purposes. The new and distinct cultivar was discovered and selected as one flowering plant by Mark Roland Boeder on a cultivated field in Rijnsenhout Holland in September 2001. The plant has been asexually reproduced by cuttings in greenhouses at Rijnsenhout Holland. The new cultivar has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention of a new and distinct variety of chrysanthemum is shown in the accompanying drawings, the color being as nearly true as possible with color photographs of this type.

FIG. 1 shows a plant of the cultivar in full bloom.

FIG. 2 shows the various stages of bloom and foliage of the new cultivar.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This new variety of chrysanthemum is of the botanical classification *Chrysanthemum morifolium*. The observations and measurements were gathered from plants grown out door in Rijnsenhout, Holland under natural day length and temperature and planted in week 23 in 2002. The natural blooming date of this crop was September 8 - 13 (week 37). The average height of the plants was 35 cms. No growth retardants were used. No tests were done on disease or insect resistance or susceptibility. No tests were done on cold or drought tolerance. This new variety produces medium sized blooms with purple ray florets blooming for a period of 5 weeks.

From the cultivars known to inventor the most similar existing cultivar in comparison to 'Kepa' is 'Venus' (U.S. Plant Patent application 10/316,939). When 'Venus' and 'Kepa' are being compared the following differences are noticed: The differences of 'Venus' and 'Kepa' are (1) Number of ray florets. 'Venus' has a smaller number of ray florets than 'Kepa'. (2) Longitudinal axis of majority of ray florets. This axis is in 'Venus' reflexing and in 'Kepa' straight.

The following is a description of the plant and characteristics that distinguish 'Kepa' as a new and distinct variety.

The color designations are taken from the plant itself. Accordingly, any discrepancies between the color designations and the colors depicted in the photographs are due to photographic tolerances. The color chart used in this description is: The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, edition 1995.

Table 1. Botanical Description of cultivar 'Kepa'

Bud

Size	Small; cross-section 1 cm, height 0.6 cm
Outside Color	Yellow-green 145C
Involucral bracts	2 rows, length 7 mm, width 3 mm
Involucral bracts among disc-florets	Not present
Involucral bracts color	Green 138B

Bloom

Type	Decorative
Size	Medium
Fully Expanded	5 cm
Peduncle length	8 cm
Peduncle color	Green 138B
Number of blooms per branch	Approx. 10 blooms per branch
Performance on the plant	5 weeks
Seeds	Produced in small quantities, ovate grey-brown 199A, 1½ mm in length.
Fragrance	Typical chrysanthemum, slightly

Color

Center of the flower	Immature Red-purple 72A Mature Yellow 13A
Color of upper surface of the ray-florets	Red-purple 58A

Color of the lower surface of the ray-florets	Red-purple 70A
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Tonality from Distance	A garden mum with purple flowers
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Color of the upper side of the ray florets after aging of the plant	Red-purple 58C
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Ray florets

Texture	Upper and under side smooth
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Number	160 - 180
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Cross-section	Flat
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Longitudinal axis of majority	Straight
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Length of corolla tube	1 cm
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Ray-floret margin	Entire
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Ray-floret length	2.1 cm
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Ray-floret width	0.8 cm
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Ratio length / width	Medium
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Shape of tip	Rounded
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Disc florets

Disc diameter	0.2 cm
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Distribution of disc florets	Few, only visible in mature bloom
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Shape	Tubular
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Color	Yellow-green 145C
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Receptacle shape	Domed raised
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Reproductive Organs

Stamen	Present only in disc florets
Stamen color	Yellow-green 144A
Pollen	Produced in small quantity
Pollen color	Yellow 7A
Styles	Thin
Style color	Yellow 13A
Style Length	3 mm
Stigma color	Yellow-green 144A
Stigma Width	1 mm
Ovaries	Enclosed in calyx

Plant

Form	A garden mum outdoor mounded and round
Growth habit	Spreading
Growth rate	Intermediate
Height	35 cm
Width	38 cm
Stem Color	Yellow-green 147C
Stem Strength	Strong
Stem Brittleness	Not brittle
Stem Anthocyanin Coloration	Absent
Internode length	2.5 cm

Length of lateral branch	From top to bottom 16 cm
Lateral branch color	Yellow-green 147C
Lateral branch, attachment	Strong
Branching (average number of lateral branches)	Good with 6 - 7 breaks after pinching
Natural season blooming date	September 8 - 13

Foliage

Leaf color	Upper side Green 139B Under side Green 139C
Color midvein	Upper side Yellow-green 147D Under side Yellow-green 148D
Size	Medium; length 5 cm, width 3 cm
Quantity (number per lateral branch)	20 - 25
Shape	Cordiform
Texture upper side	Glabrous
Texture under side	Pubescent
Venation arrangement	Palmate
Shape of the margin	Serrated
Shape of Base of Sinus Between Lateral Lobes	Rounded
Margin of Sinus Between Lateral Lobes	Diverging
Shape of Base	Obtuse
Apex	Mucronate

Petiole length

0.8 cm

Petiole color

Yellow-green 147D

Table 2. Differences with the comparison varieties

	'Kepa'	'Venus'
Number of ray florets	160 - 180	140 - 150
Longitudinal axis of majority of ray florets	Straight	Reflexing